IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 3 and 10-16 as follows:

1.   (*Currently amended*) A method of authenticating a shipping transaction, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

    providing a smartcard and a smartcard reader;

    acquiring biometric information and shipping information relating to a
        customer;

    encrypting the shipping information using the biometric information, and
    storing the encrypted result on the smartcard and in a shipping database;

    providing the smartcard to the customer so that the customer ~~may~~ can access
        the database and change shipping information; and

    if an item is shipped to the customer, requesting the customer to supply the
        biometric information to authorize the transaction.

2.   (*Original*) The method of claim 1, wherein the biometric information is a fingerprint.

3.   (*Currently amended*) The method of claim 1,wherein ~~T~~the biometric information act_s_ as a private key ~~(~~in identity-based encryption~~)~~.

4.   (*Original*) The method of claim 1, wherein the shipping information includes the identity of the customer.

5.   (*Original*) The method of claim 1, wherein the shipping information includes a shipping address.

6.   (*Original*) The method of claim 1, wherein the shipping information includes an alternate shipping address.

7.   (*Original*) The method of claim 1, wherein the shipping information includes a telephone number or other customer contact information.

8.   (*Original*) The method of claim 1, wherein the shipping database is remote and accessed through a cell phone, land line, or Internet-connected computer.

9.   (*Original*) The method of claim 1, wherein the result is also encrypted using a private key and a company public key.

10.   (*Currently amended*) The method of claim 1, further including the step of storing identity-based encrypted (IBE) data on the smartcard.

11.   (*Currently amended*) The method of claim 1, further including the step of storing a customer address on the smartcard.

12.   (*Currently amended*) The method of claim 1, further including the step of storing a phone number on the smartcard.

13.   (*Currently amended*) The method of claim 1, further including the step of storing a public key on the smartcard.

14.   (*Currently amended*) The method of claim 1, further including the step of storing a fingerprint on the smartcard.

15.   (*Currently amended*) The method of claim 1, further including the step of storing a private key on the smartcard.

16.   (*Currently amended*) The method of claim 1, further including the step of storing a company public key.